

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

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R 241330Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1062

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

DET 4 AFSCF MAHE ISLAND SEYCHELLES

AFSCF LOS ANGELES AFS CA/LGX

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 0687

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR OTRA US SE

SUBJECT: SEYCHELLES CHIEF MINISTER'S PROPOSED VISIT

TO U.S. TO DISCUSS TRACKING STATION AND

OTHER ASPECTS OF POST-INDEPENDENCE RELATIONS

WITH U.S.

REF: (A) STATE 197688,, SEP 9, 1974

(B) NAIROBI 7890 SEP 16, 1974

(C) NAIROBI 0540

(D) NAIROBI 0651

1. ON ASSUMPTION THAT SEYCHELLES CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE
WILL BE HELD AT LATEST IN APRIL (REF C), WE HAVE REACHED
TENTATIVE UNDERSTANDING WITH SEYCHELLES CHIEF MINISTER
MANCHAM TOPROVIDE LEADER GRANT WHICH WOULD BRING HIM TO
WASHINGTON IN FIRST FULL WEEK OF MAY.THIS WOULD, IN OUR
VIEW, BE SUITABLE TIME TO SCHEDULE DISCUSSIONS WHICH HE
FIRST REQUESTED LAST JULY RE CONDITIONS FOR CONTINUED
OPERATION OF U.S. SATELLITE TRACKING STATION AND OTHER
ASPECTS U.S. RELATIONS WITH SEYCHELLES AFTER INDEPENDENCE.
WE NOW ESTIMATE FULL INDEPENDENCE WILL TAKE PLACE ABOUT
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JANUARY 1976.

2. SINCE MANCHAM WILL NOT POSSESS LEGAL AUTHORITY AT TIME OF PROPOSED WASHINGTON VISIT TO CONCLUDE AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF POST-INDEPENDENCE SEYCHELLES, ANY UNDERSTANDING REACHED IN WASHINGTON WOULD HAVE TO BE LIMITED TO AGREED MINUTE OR EQUIVALENT. WHILE SUCH A DOCUMENT WOULD NOT BE LEGALLY BINDING TO EITHER SIDE, IT COULD PROVIDE BLUEPRINT FOR EXPEDITIOUS NEGOTIATION OF VARIOUS AGREEMENTS AFFECTING BILATERAL RELATIONS ONCE FULL INDEPENDENCE IS ACHIEVED, ASSUMING (WHICH IS LIKELY) THAT MANCHAM WILL BE CHIEF OF GOVERNMENT AT THAT TIME.

3. SINCE MANCHAM HAS REPEATEDLY MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE DECEMBER 30, 1966 TRACKING STATION AGREEMENT REVISED SO AS TO PROVIDE FOR GREATER DIRECT BENEFITS TO SEYCHELLES, WE BELIEVE THIS ISSUE SHOULD BE APPROACHED IN FORTHRIGHT MANNER.. AMONG OTHER THINGS, HE WILL PROBABLY WANT TO DISCUSS PAYMENT OF CUSTOMS DUTY ON TRACKING STATION IMPORTS WHICH ARE NOT EXEMPT, OTHER FORMS OF TAXATION, AND PERHAPS SOME SPECIAL RENTAL ARRANGEMENTS. WHILE WE DO NOT BELIEVE TRACKING STATION ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD BE OVERLY ISOLATED FROM OTHER ASPECTS OF FUTURE U.S. RELATIONS WITH SEYCHELLES, THIS IS TO CONSIDERABLE EXTENT UNAVOIDABLE AS TRACKING STATION IS BY FAR MOST VISIBLE SYMBOL OF U.S. IN EYES OF SEYCHELLES AND IS, THEREFORE, AREA IN WHICH MANCHAM MOST ANXIOUS OBTAIN CONCESSIONS WHICH WILL ENHANCE HIS POLITICAL POSITION AT HOME.

4. WE WOULD THINK THAT ONE DAY COULD BE SET ASIDE IN WASHINGTON FOR DISCUSSIONS FOCUSED PRIMARILY ON TRACKING STATION ARRANGEMENTS. IT COULD BE FOLLOWED BY ONE OR TWO DAYS OF DISCUSSION FOCUSED ON OTHER MATTERS INCLUDING TYPES OF AID NEEDED BY SEYCHELLES WHICH MIGHT BE PROVIDED BY U.S., DEPENDING ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDING AFTER INDEPENDENCE. DISCUSSIONS MIGHT ALSO DEAL WITH SUCH SUBJECT AS U.S. DIPLOMATIC PRESENCE IN SEYCHELLES (SEE REF D FOR OUR RECOMMENDATIONS), U.S. NAVY SHIP VISITS, U.S. TRADE AND INVESTMENT.

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5. AT CONCLUSION OF DISCUSSIONS IT WOULD PROBABLY BE DESIRABLE TO REACH AGREEMENT WITH MANCHAM NOT ONLY ON TEST OF AGREED MINUTE BUT ON TEXT OF PRESS RELEASE WHICH --IN GENERAL TERMS -- COULD DESCRIBE U.S. INTENTION TO ESTABLISH FRIENDLY AND COOPERATIVE RELATIONS WITH POST-INDEPENDENCE SEYCHELLES.

6. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S THINKING RE TIMING AND

SUBSTANCE OF THESE PROPOSED DISCUSSIONS ASAP SO THAT
ARRANGEMENTS FOR HIS LEADER GRANT TRIP CAN BE FIRMED UP.
I PLAN TO REQUEST CONSULTATIONS/HOME LEAVE SO THAT I
CAN BE IN WASHINGTON FOR THESE DISCUSSIONS.
MARSHALL

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NNN

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